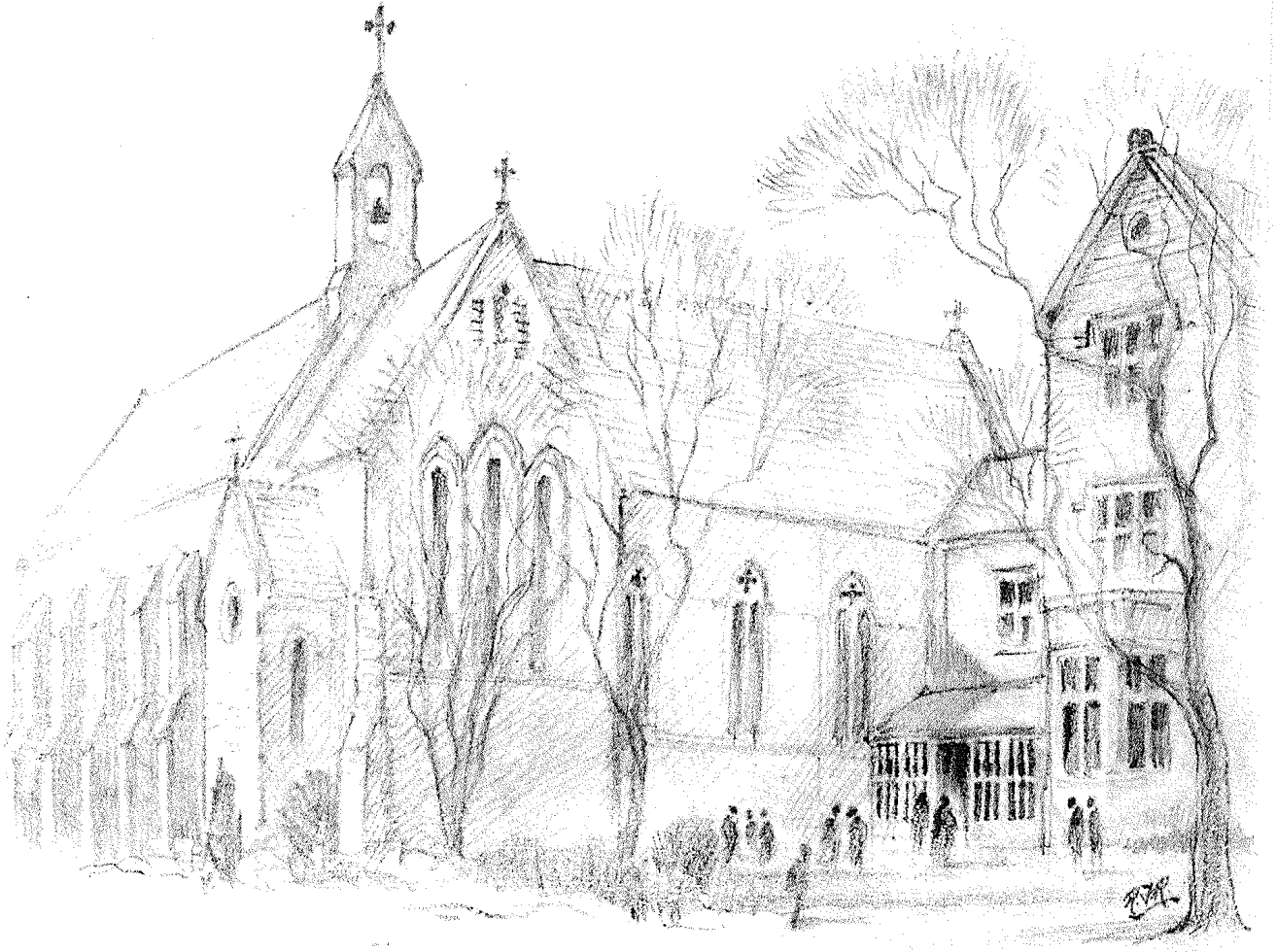


**SACRED HEART AND ST ALDHELM  
SHERBORNE**

**A GUIDE TO OUR PARISH**



Parish founded by The Religious of Christian Instruction 1891

*Last updated Wednesday, 07 July 2010*

THE SACRED HEART AND ST ALDHELM  
Westbury, Sherborne, Dorset  
DT9 3EL

**Parish Clergy**

Father Rodney Schofield  
Father Michael Downey (Retired)  
Deacon Jonathan Simon

Parish Secretary and Parish Office  
The Parish House, Westbury, Sherborne, DT9 3EL  
Telephone - 01935 812021  
e-mail: sherbornerc@tiscali.co.uk

**Mass Times**

Saturday (Vigil Mass)	6.00pm
Sunday	10.30am
Weekdays <i>(see Newsletter)</i>	<i>Daily Mass</i>
Holy Days	10.00am & 6.30pm
<i>Confessions</i>	Saturday 5.30pm

**Sunday Mass nearby**

Milborne Port (St John) 9.00am

**Convent**

Some Parish weekday Masses are held in the Convent next door to the Church. See the weekly Newsletter.

**NOTICES**

**Parish Office**

The Parish Office is located in the Parish House, opposite the church: it is open 9.30am to 12.30pm Mondays to Fridays. Telephone: 01935 812021.

**Newsletter**

A weekly newsletter is prepared by the Parish Office. It includes the duty rota and forthcoming events in the Parish. Any notices should be given to the Parish Office before noon on Thursdays.

**Car Parking**

When attending church services cars may be parked

- In the car park at the rear of the church, but only in the enclosed area. It is helpful if cars are parked nose into the church or the wall opposite i.e. not long-ways.
- On the South side of the front car park as designated.

Also *on Saturdays and Sundays* - In the road on the South side of Westbury i.e. opposite the church. Bill Butters in the SW Business Park also kindly allows use of his spaces there; access is near the station, with the parking itself but a moment's walk from the church.

## **Gift Aid**

By completion of a simple form, any offering, including the Sunday collection, made to the Parish by a tax payer is eligible for repayment of income tax. This refund is a great help to Parish finances, well worth the small effort involved. The necessary forms can be found at the back of the church: when completed they remain confidential, handled only by the Parish Treasurer.

## **SUPPORT FOR THE MASS**

### **Stewards**

When you come to Mass you will be greeted by the Steward whose role is to make you feel at home, offer you the necessary books and, if required, help you to find a seat. Volunteers for this role at weekends are always welcome.

### **Readers**

The readers have a special role within the liturgy. Weekend Masses are covered by a rota. On weekdays members of the congregation offer themselves on an ad hoc basis. Training is available for readers.

### **Ministers of Holy Communion**

Ministers of Holy Communion help the Priest to distribute Holy Communion at Mass. Some Ministers take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. These visits fulfil a spiritual need and provide a link with the Parish. Ministers for Holy Communion reaffirm their commitment on an annual basis.

### **Sacristans**

These are in the Parish who prepare the church for Mass on Sundays, weekdays and other occasions such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. The Sacristans work according to a rota. New Sacristans are always very welcome.

### **Other Duties**

Volunteers are needed for other functions too. Arranging flowers adds beauty to the Church and is a very worthwhile contribution to the Parish. The provision of post-Mass coffee enables parishioners to get together informally after Sunday Mass and provides an opportunity to greet newcomers and visitors. Cashing up after Sunday Mass is also an important task.

## **MUSIC**

### **Choir**

The Choir leads the singing at Mass on Sundays - other than the first Sunday in the month (led instead by the Music Group) - and usually numbers about a dozen, including men. There is always room for new singers: those interested in joining should get in touch with the conductor, Nick Bathurst, or any other member after Mass.

The Choir meets weekly on a Tuesday at 7.30pm in the organ loft to rehearse for the upcoming Mass. Four Mass settings are sung currently, and include part-singing. The Choir uses a lot of Taize, but also rehearse more challenging pieces, particularly for feasts and special occasions. At Christmas the Choir leads 30 minutes of carol singing before Midnight Mass.

## **Music Group**

The Music Group consists of singers, guitarists and other instrumentalists. Rehearsals take place as necessary, but usually just before or after Sunday Mass. Settings and hymns are different from those normally sung by the choir. New members are always welcome.

## **PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS**

### **Baptism**

Baptism is the first sacrament of the church, and involves not only the one to be christened, but also the parents and godparents. Parents take part in baptismal preparation, which is intended to help and encourage them in their own life of faith.

### **First Holy Communion**

To prepare for First Holy Communion, children of around 8 years old or more take part in a preparation course. The classes start in January, with the First Holy Communion in June.

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation in the Plymouth diocese normally takes place at about age 14. A confirmation group meets regularly over several months to prepare the young people for this important step in their personal faith journey. During this time, they go away for a weekend retreat with young people from other parishes.

### **Marriage**

Couples wishing to be married in the parish are expected to take part in a marriage preparation course. These take place in the Church Hall two or three times each year. They are normally attended by couples from a number of different parishes. The one day course is primarily concentrated around relationship issues such as conflict and commitment. Planning the wedding needs to begin at least six months ahead.

*For all sacramental preparation, please contact the Parish Priest.*

## **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

### **Becoming a Catholic**

In the early church there was a programme for gradual initiation which culminated with Baptism and the Eucharist. This procedure has now been modified and restored for adults. It is still called by its old name, "The Catechumenate".

There has been a parallel development for those baptised in other Christian churches wishing to become Catholics. To deepen their faith and come to know how we worship and pray they also join the RCIA group, meeting weekly for about six months. At the end of this period they make a declaration of faith, and are confirmed and celebrate the Eucharist with the Parish community.

## **PARISH GROUPS**

### **Small Parish Groups**

The small Parish Groups provide a spiritual focus for parishioners to get together in an informal atmosphere to discuss the scriptures, share experiences and pray together. Each Group is co-ordinated by a volunteer, but there is no set framework. Generally, the Groups meet at least once a month. Presently, there are six such Groups with anything up to twelve members each. Any parishioner

interested in joining such an "SPG" should contact one of the Group co-ordinators, whose names are available in the Parish Office.

## **SHERBORNE CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Sherborne Churches Together is an ecumenical group established for the purpose of bringing together and, where appropriate, coordinating the activities of the various churches in Sherborne. Normally, our Parish has two representatives on the committee.

## **SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING**

### **Church Hall**

The Church Hall is well used for Parish events. Coffee is available after the 10.30am Mass on Sundays and provides a relaxed time when newcomers and visitors are particularly welcome. The Hall is available for hire: for further information contact Shirley Marshall.

### **Luncheon Club**

A long established Luncheon Club meets usually on the second Wednesday of each month in the Parish Hall. The lunch is provided by a group of volunteers. Guests meet at 12.30pm for a glass of sherry or fruit juice and a get-together chat before a two-course lunch at 1.00pm. The ambience is one of welcome and friendship. Anyone, especially those on their own, is invited to come along. As numbers fluctuate, an advance phone call to Ann O'Callaghan is appreciated: Luncheon Club dates are given in the newsletter.

### **Social and Fundraising**

The Parish has an active Fundraising group, headed by Peter Rhodes. Fundraising takes the form of various bazaars, quiz nights, coffee mornings, suppers, draws etc, culminating in the big Summer Fete, which draws over a thousand visitors, and has grown over the years to encompass stalls, entertainment, food, games, music and dancing. Apart from raising money for the Parish, the various events are intended to draw the Parish community together, and encourage all parishioners to participate and become involved as a "family".

Of course, these events do not organise themselves; there is always a need for helpers for the various events as they occur. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact Peter Rhodes after Mass.

### **Parish 100 Club**

The 100 Club takes the form of a draw in the Church Hall on the 1st Sunday of each month after Mass. Members sign up to a number which costs £1 per week, payable for six or twelve months in advance. There is no limit to the numbers a member may purchase. There are four prizes drawn every month, worth £40, £20, £10 and £5: in the December draw, the first prize is £100. Entry forms are available at the back of the Church, or contact Michael Crehan / Peter Rhodes after Sunday Mass or Fred Welland after Saturday Mass. Your participation in the 100 Club will greatly benefit Parish funds.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Pastoral Council**

The aim of the Council is to support the Parish priest and further the pastoral work of the Parish. Members of the Council are elected by a general vote at the Parish AGM, usually for a period of

four years. The Council meets about six times a year and its discussions cover a wide range of pastoral issues and activities. The names of the members of the Committee can be found at the back of the church. Membership can be a rewarding experience and provide an insight into the pastoral and spiritual mission of the Parish and the wider Diocese.

### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee oversees the financial health of the Parish, and produces quarterly and annual accounts. Major items of Parish expenditure must be approved by the Committee before monies are expended. The Committee is made up of a Chairman appointed by the Parish Priest and four volunteer members, one of whom is the Treasurer. The Parish Priest attends meetings in an ex-officio capacity. Annual accounts are presented to the Parish AGM, and are then submitted for audit to the Diocese.

### **Property Committee**

The Property Committee oversees the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings and infrastructure, and the upkeep of the gardens and grounds. It becomes involved in new projects and both major and minor works. It deals with architects and contractors and supervises work in progress. The Chairman is appointed by the Parish Priest, and there are an additional three volunteer members. One member of the Committee takes on the remit for Health and Safety.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

The children's liturgy takes place on Sundays in the Church Hall during the first part of Mass, for children between the ages of 5 and 11. The aim is to bring the Gospel to the children in words that they can understand. Through discussion and other fun activities, we find ways that they can live out the Gospels and, by their actions, show others about Jesus. The children re-join the Mass at the Offertory, and bring the gifts to the altar.

### **Youth**

Young people (school years 6 and above) meet on a monthly basis for fun activities and games in the Church Hall. They enjoy table tennis, pool tournaments, craft making, baking, music and much more. There are also outings to local attractions. Several times a year they meet up with other Deanery youth members, visiting (e.g.) Thorpe Park and Poole Theatre. Every Summer there is a fun afternoon at Leweston School, using the outdoor swimming pool and tennis courts in beautiful surroundings. The afternoon includes a Youth Mass and ends with a shared supper. Each year also the Parish youth attend the Diocesan Youth Rally held at Honiton.

Young people are also encouraged to take part and help in Parish events including the Summer Fete and the 'Christ the King' Mass, traditionally a Youth service.

### **Catholic Schooling**

The only Catholic school in the Sherborne area is the independent Leweston School, which takes boys in the earlier year groups and girls to age 18. Sherborne School, also independent, makes provision for Catholic boys to attend Mass and has appointed an Honorary Catholic Chaplain. Similarly, Sherborne School for Girls makes provision for Catholic girls to attend Mass on Sundays. There is a Catholic primary school in Yeovil and also one attached to the church in Marnhull.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We hope that newcomers will soon feel part of our church community, and be ready to contribute to its life and activities. We welcome offers of help in all the areas outlined in this booklet / guide. Please leave details of your name, address, family etc on the forms available in the narthex.

## **HISTORY OF THE PARISH**

The story begins with the arrival in Sherborne in 1891, via Bridport and the railway station, of The Religious of Christian Instruction from Ghent. Prior to that, Mass had been celebrated in Cliffe House at the junction of Marston Road; this house, set back into the rock face, still exists. The Mass was celebrated by a priest from Marnhull, where the church dates from 1830. Marnhull's post Reformation Catholic presence goes back long before these Sisters came to Sherborne.

In 1891, the Sisters acquired a large property in Westbury through the agency of a Catholic doctor, Doctor William McEnery. The building was a Sherborne Boy's School boarding house, though independently owned. Sherborne School was not thriving at the time, so the owner of the house sold it without informing the Headmaster. Details can be found in the official history of Sherborne School. The Sisters also have photographs from this time, and some of the stone tablets in the Church also give details.

Immediately on arrival, the Sisters began to build a church that was completed in 1894. The architect was a priest, Canon Scholes, who built many churches in the South of England, including the Holy Ghost Church in Yeovil. Thus the Sisters created a new parish that, for many years, would remain dependent on them. They carried out most of the work associated with the church; cleaning, preparation for services, flowers, music, preparation of children for the Sacraments and moreover paid all the bills! The church was constructed in two parts, the nave for the parishioners and a side chapel for the Sisters. The organ loft was built to be open to both spaces. Originally the church was physically joined to the Convent.

The Sisters then set up a school which proved very successful. At the time there was not a lot of competition in providing education for girls in Sherborne. As numbers grew, provision was made for both day and boarding pupils, and annexes were added to the Convent. Part of the Convent itself was also used for boarding pupils. In 1948, Leweston Manor was purchased from Mrs. Rose who kindly offered it at a very reasonable price, and the senior pupils were moved there. In 1991 the Parish and School celebrated the Centenary of the arrival in Sherborne of the Religious of Christian Instruction. The Sisters then generously gave both the church and the priest's house to the Diocese. St. Antony's Preparatory School in Sherborne was closed in 1993 and a new Preparatory School was opened at Leweston. Subsequently, the convent and the school buildings were sold to the Diocese, and the Sisters moved into terraced houses in West Terrace, Westbury. Other Sisters later moved from Effingham in Surrey, joining them in 2010. The Diocese resold properties in the 1990s to enable the Parish to build a much-needed hall (1998) and to re-order the church (2000).

The early members of the Community who died in Sherborne are buried in the Catholic area of Sherborne cemetery, where there is a monument to their memory. In 1956, a burial ground was provided at Leweston.

